(c) the response of Government theret?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme children in the age group 9 months to 3 years are given five doses of Vitamin 'A' in the form of a liquid preparation at six monthly intervals. This is done for prophylaxis against deficiency of the vitamin, which among other things, can lead to blindness. A National Consultation with experts held in September 2000 concluded that "In India, the magnitude of clinical Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD) has declined significantly but if exists as a public health problem in scattered pockets."

Seizure of spurious drugs

†2932. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to curb the trade of spurious and sub-standard medicines in various parts of the country;

(b) the States including Delhi where action has been taken against the manufacturers of spurious medicines;

(c) the worth of the spurious medicines seized during the last two years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules there under, State Governments have been empowered to enforce quality of drugs including check on manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The said Act was amended in 1982 to provide for specific definition of spurious drugs and severe penalties extending to life imprisonment have been prescribed.

State Governments have been advised from time to time to provide adequate enforcement machinery and drug testing facilities and to keep strict surveillance over the inter-state movement of spurious drugs. Facilities of Central Government testing labs have also been made available to the States for testing of drugs besides financial assistance provided to them to augment and strengthen their testing capabilities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The State Drugs Controllers have been advised to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:—

(i) Constitution/reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer association should find representation.

(ii) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.

(iii) Training to be provided to selected Officials of Drug Control Adrhinistration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc. in respect of Spurious/Counterfeit drugs.

(iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drugs samples by establishing own state level drug testing facilities.

(v) State Drugs Control Authorities to be cautious while approving licenses for drug products to ensure that "look-alike" products are not encouraged.

(vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(vii) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers.

(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To obtain Cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) programme.

In addition, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary initiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.

(ii) The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the need to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare.

(iii) The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS on July 18, 2001 associating members from Industry, Trade, Drugs Regulatory Officials and Public representatives to go into all aspects of the menace of Spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

(b) As per the information given by the State Drug Control Authorities, 17 cases related to spurious drugs have been reported from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in last one year. 68 persons have been arrested in this regard during the period 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) As per the information given by the State Drug Control Authorities of Delhi, 76 allopathic medicines worth Rs. 1 Crore (approx) and two Ayurvedic medicines worth Rs. 1.5 crore (Approx) of various manufacturers were seized during a raid conducted in July 2001 in and around Bhagirath Place in Delhi and At Murthal, District Sonepat, Haryana. So far Police have arrested six persons in this connection and investigations are in progress.

Steps to check female foeticide

†2933. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that network of doctors is working in every city and village to commit the heinous crime of female foeticide;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the evil practice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No data is available on a specific network of doctors committing female foeticide. However, increase in female foeticide seems to have contributed to adverse sex ratio in the age group of 0.6 year in almost all states, as revealed in Census 2001.

(b) In order to prevent the cases of sex determination of foetus leading to female foeticide, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, was enacted which came into operation with effect from 1st January, 1996. This act prohibits any person from conducting

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.